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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DHA-05 IO-13 /094 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6392
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7450

E. O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES END OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

REF: LIMA 7387

1. IN HEAVILY PUBLICIZED SPEECH AT TACNA AUGUST 28, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, IN EFFECT SINCE JULY 1976, IS LIFTED. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE REINSTATEMENT OF CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES SUSPENDED DURING THIS PERIOD. AMONG THESE GUARANTEES ARE THE RIGHT OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO ASSEMBLE AND ORGANIZE FREELY AND THE RIGHT OF WORKERS TO STRIKE. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOP WOULD BE "INFLEXIBLY SEVERE" IN CONTROLLING THOSE ELEMENTS THAT, IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT MOVEMENT TOWARD "A COMPLETE CLIMATE OF FREEDOM," ATTEMPT TO "CREATE UNCERTAINTY, SOW THE SEEDS OF VIOLENCE, OR PROVOKE A SITUATION OF CHAOS" IN THE COUNTRY.
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2. THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY FOLLOWS RECENT CONCILIATORY GESTURES BY THE GOP AFTER THE SOCIAL AND LABOR UNREST OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS. ON AUGUST 24, THE GOP RELEASED THE LEADERS OF THE MAJOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT LABOR UNIONS DETAINED SINCE THE JULY 19 STRIKE, AND ALLOWED UNION HEADQUARTERS, CLOSED SINCE

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THE STRIKE, TO REOPEN (REFTEL). IT ALSO FOLLOWS JULY
28'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH ANNOUNCING THE GOP'S PLANS
TO RETURN TO ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN 1980.

3. THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES,
HOWEVER, DO NOT APPEAR TO INCLUDE THE END OF PRESS
CENSORSHIP OR THE RETURN OF INDIVIDUALS DEPORTED FOR
POLITICAL REASONS FROM THE COUNTRY. THE EXTENT THAT
WORKERS, ESPECIALLY THOS IN VITAL ECONOMIC AREAS SUCH
AS THE MINING SECTOR, WILL BE PERMITTED BY THE GOP TO
HOLD EXTENDED WORK STOPPAGES IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC
CRISIS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE AT THIS TIME. LEFTIST
MINE-WORKING UNIONS HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF LABOR
AGITATION SINCE THE GOP ANNOUNCED A NEW AUSTERITY PROGRAM
IN JUNE.

4. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF CEREMONIES
MARKING THE REINCORPORATION OF TACNA INTO PERU IN 1929
AFTER HALF A CENTRURY OF OCCUPATION BY CHILE. THE PRESIDENT
MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO CHILE ALTHOUGH HE DID STRESS
THAT TACNA WOULD NEVER AGAIN SUFFER "THE PAIN AND
ANGUISH" OF CAPTIVITY.

5. COMMENT: THIS MOST RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS TO
BE PART OF THE ONGOING MOVEMENT OF LIBERALIZATION BY
THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AS IT PREPARES TO RETURN POWER
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TO ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN 1980. FOLLOWING THE LABOR AND
POLITICAL DISTURBANCES OF JUNE AND JULY, A CALM SEEMS TO
HAVE DESCENDED ON THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL SCENE. UNDOUBTEDLY,
AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS MOVE AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION
WAS MORALES BERMUDEZ' ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 28 OF THE 1980
ELECTIONS. NOW, IT APPEARS THAT POLITICAL PARTIES AND
ORGANIZATIONS ARE REGROUPING AND JOCKEYING FOR POSITION
PRIOR TO THE CONVOCATION NEXT YEAR OF AN ASSEMBLY TO REWRITE
THE PERUVIAN CONSTITUTION AND LAY THE GUIDELINES FOR THE
TRANSFER OF POWER IN 1980. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS WORTH
NOTING THE PRESIDENT'S WARNING IN HIS TACNA SPEECH THAT
THE ARMED FORCES WILL NOT PERMIT THE DOMINATION OR CONCENTRA-
TION OF POWER IN THE HANDS OF ANY ONE POLITICAL OR SOCIAL
GROUP. WHAT METHODS THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT MAY BE CONSIDER-
ING TO ASSURE THE "PLURALISM" IT SEEKS IS NOT YET KNOWN
BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT IT INTENDS TO HAVE A DECISIVE VOICE
IN THE SHAPE OF ANY NEW POWER STRUCTURE.
SHLAUDEMAN

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